



RECOMMENDATIONS ON WELL-TARGETED SHORT AND MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS TO FURTHER ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Senior officials from the Czech Republic, Mozambique, South Africa and Viet Nam – key States in rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros horn trade identified by CITES Decisions, Recommendations, and strategies and proposed actions developed by the CITES Rhinoceros Enforcement Task Force – agreed to recommend the following actions to be implemented by key States at a Senior Officials Meeting convened by the CITES Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, on 11-12 February 2015. A delegation from China attended the meeting as an observer, along with representatives from INTERPOL, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

Short-term actions to be implemented immediately:

1. Collect samples for DNA forensic analysis from seized rhinoceros horns, within 45 days of a seizure, in support of timely follow-up investigations;
2. Share DNA profiles with relevant national rhinoceros focal points and/or relevant national competent authorities in countries of origin, transit and destination;
3. Where interested, request implementation of the UNODC-WCO Container Control Programme;
4. Where interested, request implementation of the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCCWC) Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit;
5. Request ICCWC partners to provide anti-money laundering training; and
6. Request South Africa, on behalf of key States, to consider the GEF-UNEP rhino project¹ as a source of funding to implement actions with international scope.

Short-term actions to be implemented within six months:

7. Develop a Standard Operating Procedure on seizure reporting for national rhinoceros focal points and/or relevant national competent authorities, outlining procedures for alerting relevant national and international authorities about seizures and other available associated information, led by the Czech Republic and supported by South Africa on behalf of key States;
8. Share information on key smuggling routes and concealment methods among national rhinoceros focal points and/or relevant national competent authorities;
9. Develop a Standard Operating Procedure for the collection and analysis of samples from seized rhinoceros specimens and the submission of samples or DNA profiles to the RhODIS database in South Africa, led by South Africa on behalf of key States;
10. Establish a CENcomm closed user group for national rhinoceros focal points and/or relevant national competent authorities, led by the WCO on behalf of ICCWC, and for WCO to provide support as appropriate;

¹ Project: Strengthening law enforcement capabilities to combat wildlife crime for conservation and sustainable use of species in South Africa (target: rhinoceros)

11. Where possible, each country to identify fugitives involved in rhinoceros poaching and illegal rhinoceros horn trade and request INTERPOL to include them in INTERPOL operations and issue Red Notices or other applicable Notices;
12. Encourage INTERPOL National Central Bureaus to grant access to INTERPOL's I-24/7 global database and communication system for national rhinoceros focal points and/or relevant national competent authorities;
13. Engage with the business sector, particularly the transport industry (airline companies, courier companies and shipping companies), to support interventions to address rhinoceros-related crimes and raise awareness;
14. Encourage increased training of and collaboration between investigators and prosecutors; and
15. Raise awareness of the serious nature of rhinoceros-related crimes among the judiciary of the key States and encourage appropriate deterrent penalties.

Medium-term actions to be implemented within 12-18 months:

16. Conduct joint operations between key States, supported by ICCWC partners, targeting known smuggling routes;
17. Where possible, include Standard Operating Procedures and actions in Memoranda of Understanding established between key States;
18. Encourage operational visits between key States to enhance understanding and share best practices; and
19. Consider existing anti-corruption best practices and the training opportunities available through ICCWC partners.